

TRANSLATION OF JAPANESE OFFICE ACTION

Reference number: _____ Mailing number: 373691 Mailing date: June 16, 2009

NOTICE OF REASONS FOR REJECTION

Patent Application No.: 2006-504929
Drafting Date: June 8, 2009
Patent Office Examiner: Takeshi SUZUKI 9154 4K00
Attorney for Applicant: Kenichi MORITA and the other
Applied Provisions: Article 29, paragraph 2, and Article 36

It is deemed that this application should be rejected for the reasons given below. Any argument should be submitted in writing within 3 months from the date of mailing of this notice.

REASONS

A. The statements in the specification of this application do not comply with the requirements prescribed in Article 36, paragraph 4, No. 1 of the Patent Law, with respect to the following points.

The statements in the claims of this application do not comply with the requirements prescribed in Article 36, paragraph 6, No. 1 of the Patent Law, with respect to the following points.

The statements in the claims of this application do not comply with the requirements prescribed in Article 36, paragraph 6, No. 2 of the Patent Law, with respect to the following points.

Remarks

(1) The "Detailed Description of the Invention" in the Specification of the present application simply discloses the preferable ranges in the cold rolling and the stretch-forming, but does not disclose any concrete details for working the present invention, for example, the conditions for each step of the cold rolling, the intermediate annealing, the final annealing, and the stretch-forming, and the effects obtained from each of the above conditions.

Therefore, it is not considered that the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 4 of the present application is clearly or sufficiently disclosed in the detailed description of the invention in a manner that it may be carried out by those skilled in the art^{(*)1}. Further, it is considered that the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 4 of the present application is not described in the "Detailed Description of the Invention"^{(*)2}.

(2) The invention set forth in Claims 1 to 3 relates to the rolled semi-finished product, that is, an invention of "product"^{(*)3}. However, all the features defined in Claims 1 to 3 are relevant to process or method matters with exception of the feature of the alloy composition. Thus, the definitions of the rolled semi-finished product as a product are unclear.

Therefore, the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 3 of the present application is unclear.

(3) Each of Claims 1 and 4 includes the statement "degree of deformation"⁽⁴⁾. However, said statement is not generally used as a Japanese technical term, and thus, the definition of said statement is unclear.

Therefore, the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 4 of the present application is unclear.

(According to Japanese technical terminology, a degree of deformation during the rolling is denoted by the term "Akka-ritu" corresponding to the English "rolling reduction", and the term is clearly defined. The applicant is requested to clarify the differences between "degree of deformation" and "rolling reduction".)

(4) Each of Claims 1 and 4 includes the statement "stretch-formed by 0.1 to 0.5 %"⁽⁵⁾. However, said statement is not generally used as a Japanese technical term, and thus, the meaning of said statement is unclear.

Therefore, the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 4 is unclear.

(Specifically, the applicant is requested to clarify if the "stretch-forming" in the present application corresponds to "skin pass rolling".)

(5) Each of Claims 1 and 4 includes the statement "stretch-formed by 0.1 to 0.5 %". However, it is unclear on what basis the value "0.1 to 0.5 %" is calculated.

Therefore, the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 4 of the present application is unclear.

(In Japanese technical terminology, a "degree of elongation" is used to denote a degree of working or processing, and is clearly defined as a technical term. The applicant is requested to explain whether the value "0.1 to 1.5 %" in the present application represents the value in the "degree of elongation".)

(6) The "Detailed description of the Invention" in the Specification of the present application includes the wording "flow lines"⁽⁶⁾. However, the meaning or the definition of said wording is unclear. Therefore, it is considered that the invention set forth in Claims 1 to 4 of the present application is not clearly or sufficiently disclosed in the detailed description of the invention in such a manner that it may be carried out by those skilled in the art.

B. The invention described in the claims below of this application is deemed one which could easily have been made, prior to the filing of the patent application, by a person with ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains, on the basis of the invention described in the publications below distributed in Japan or elsewhere, or made available to the public through

electric telecommunication lines in Japan or elsewhere, prior to the filing of the patent application, and therefore is not patentable under Article 29, paragraph 2 of the Patent Law.

Remarks (As to Citations, etc., see "list of Citations, etc.")

Claims: 1 to 4

Citations 1 to 3 disclose the techniques that a cold rolling before a final annealing is carried out at a comparatively lower rolling reduction.

Further, as disclosed in Citation 4 (cf. paragraph [0005]^{(*)7}) and Citation 5 (cf. paragraph [0010]^{(*)8}), the technique of a stretch-forming is well known.

Therefore, it is considered that the present invention corresponds to a mere technique wherein a final soft annealing is carried out in a batch furnace. Thus, the present invention as set forth in Claims 1 to 4 is easily conceivable for a person with ordinary skill in the art from the disclosures in Citations 1 to 5, and no remarkable advantageous effects obtainable therefrom are recognized.

List of Citations, etc.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 7-34208
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 4-301055
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 10-219412
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 10-137860
5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 7-173585

Record of the Results of Search for Documents Concerning Prior Art

· Searched technical field: IPC C22C 21/00 - 21/18
C22F 1/04 - 1/057

· Prior art: Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 4-276050
Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 6-220564
Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 10-310854
Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 6-25787
Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 9-78169

This record of the results of search for documents concerning prior art does not constitute reasons for rejection.

Third Examination Department, Metallic electrochemistry:
Examiner Takeshi SUZUKI
Telephone number: 03-3581-1101, extension 3435

«Translator's notes»

- *1: The Examiner has pointed out the violation of the enablement requirements stipulated in Article 36, paragraph 4, No. 1.
- *2: The Examiner has pointed out the violation of the supporting requirements stipulated in Article 36, paragraph 6, No. 1.
- *3: The Examiner intends to mean that the present invention is not a process or method invention, but a product invention.
- *4: See, for example, sixth line from the bottom of the English claim 1.
- *5: See, for example, second line from the bottom of the English claim 1.
- *6: See, for example, page 1, the last line of the English text.
- *7: Citation 4 discloses in paragraph [0005] that "A process wherein S-S marks can be prevented by imparting a processing strain by means of a primary stretch such as a leveler.
- *8: Citation 5 disclosed in paragraph [0010] that "(4) Cold slight processing: After quenching, a slight processing by a roller leveling or a skin pass rolling is carried out . . .".